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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,698	09/05/2003	Eric Viscito	02CON382P-CIP	7178
25700	7590	03/06/2008	EXAMINER	
FARJAMI & FARJAMI LLP 26522 LA ALAMEDA AVENUE, SUITE 360 MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691			WONG, ALLEN C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2621	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/06/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/655,698

Applicant(s)

VISCITO ET AL.

Examiner

Allen Wong

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8,10-13,15 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,7,9,14,16 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/3/07 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10-13, 15 and 17-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Veltman (5,481,543) in view of Acer (6,151,359).

Regarding claims 1 and 15, Veltman discloses a computer readable medium encoded with a computer program including computer executable instructions and a method for encoding each picture in a sequence of pictures using an encoder (col.19,

In.43-47, Veltman discloses the use of an encoder), said method comprising the steps of:

assigning, by said encoder, a pre-decoder buffer removal time to said picture (fig.22A, element 309 and col.37, ln.21-26);

selecting, for said picture, a number of bits, wherein the time-equivalent of said number of bits is no greater than a difference based on said pre-decoder buffer removal time of said picture and an initial arrival time of said picture into a pre-decoder buffer (col.34, ln.14-53, in fig.22B, note that when the first picture enters the pre-decoder buffer 42, it is at the first time t1, and note the second picture enters the pre-decoder buffer 42 at the second time t2, note the third picture exits the pre-decoder buffer 42 at the third time t3, and note the fourth picture exits the pre-decoder buffer 42 at the fourth time t4; and that at element 52, the time stamps of the pictures are kept track in element 52 and then processed in element 55 for executing the decoding of pictures at video decoder 45, wherein the video input buffer size and video bit rate are used to affect the video input buffer size section 359 to select the number of bits for each picture in a sequence of pictures); and

compressing, by said encoder, said picture to generate said number of bits (col.31, ln.22-24 and fig.22A, element 201A).

Veltman does not specifically disclose constraining, by said encoder, an initial arrival time of said picture into said pre-decoder buffer, and transmitting, by said encoder, said picture to said pre-decoder buffer in compliance with said initial arrival time. However, Acer teaches the constraints placed by the encoder with an initial arrival

time of the picture into the pre-decoder buffer (col.2, ln.28-44, Acer discloses that the use of the virtual buffer 22 depends on the constraints placed on the encoder buffer delay and the decoder buffer delay by equating the total buffer delay to the sum of the encoder buffer delay and the decoder buffer delay, thus, the decoder buffer delay is equal to the total buffer delay minus the encoder buffer delay, and thus having an initial arrival time for the picture arriving at the pre-decoder buffer 18), and transmitting, via encoder, the picture to the pre-decoder buffer in compliance with the initial arrival time (col.2, ln.55-65, Acer discloses the transmission of data in accordance with the initial arrival time as determined by encoder 12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Veltman and Acer, as a whole, for ensuring proper video encoding/decoding and synchronism of the buffers to ensure a smooth transmission of video data over a transmission channel (Acer col.1, ln.48-50).

Regarding claim 8, Veltman discloses an encoder for encoding a picture in a sequence of pictures, said encoder comprising:

a compressor configured to compress said picture to generate a number of bits (col.31, ln.22-24 and fig.22A, element 201A);

wherein said encoder is configured to assign a pre-decoder buffer removal time to said picture and to select, for said picture, said number of bits (fig.22A, element 309 and col.37, ln.21-26); and

selecting, for said picture, said number of bits, wherein the time-equivalent of said number of bits is no greater than a difference based on said pre-decoder buffer

removal time of said picture and an initial arrival time of said picture into a pre-decoder buffer (col.34, ln.14-53, in fig.22B, note that when the first picture enters the pre-decoder buffer 42, it is at the first time t_1 , and note the second picture enters the pre-decoder buffer 42 at the second time t_2 , note the third picture exits the pre-decoder buffer 42 at the third time t_3 , and note the fourth picture exits the pre-decoder buffer 42 at the fourth time t_4 ; and that at element 52, the time stamps of the pictures are kept track in element 52 and then processed in element 55 for executing the decoding of pictures at video decoder 45, wherein the video input buffer size and video bit rate are used to affect the video input buffer size section 359 to select the number of bits for each picture in a sequence of pictures).

Veltman does not specifically disclose said encoder is further configured to constrain an initial arrival time of said picture into said pre-decoder buffer by selecting, and a transmitter configured to transmit said picture to said pre-decoder buffer in compliance with said initial arrival time. However, Acer teaches the constraints placed by the encoder with an initial arrival time of the picture into the pre-decoder buffer (col.2, ln.28-44, Acer discloses that the use of the virtual buffer 22 depends on the constraints placed on the encoder buffer delay and the decoder buffer delay by equating the total buffer delay to the sum of the encoder buffer delay and the decoder buffer delay, thus, the decoder buffer delay is equal to the total buffer delay minus the encoder buffer delay, and thus having an initial arrival time for the picture arriving at the pre-decoder buffer 18), and transmitting, via encoder, the picture to the pre-decoder buffer in compliance with the initial arrival time (col.2, ln.55-65, Acer discloses the transmission

of data in accordance with the initial arrival time as determined by encoder 12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Veltman and Acer, as a whole, for ensuring proper video encoding/decoding and synchronism of the buffers to ensure a smooth transmission of video data over a transmission channel (Acer col.1, ln.48-50).

3. Claims 3-6, 10-13 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Veltman (5,481,543) and Acer (6,151,359) in view of Legall (5,929,916).

Regarding claims 3, 10 and 17, Veltman and Acer does not specifically disclose further comprising the steps of: determining a first limit on a number of bits for compressing said picture and one or more number of bits for compressing one or more future pictures, wherein said future pictures are in said pre-decoder buffer at said pre-decoder buffer removal time of said current picture; and compressing said picture using a first number of bits, wherein said first number of bits complies with said first limit.

However, Legall discloses further comprising the steps of: determining a first limit on a number of bits for compressing said picture and one or more number of bits for compressing one or more future pictures, wherein said future pictures are in said pre-decoder buffer at said pre-decoder buffer removal time of said current picture (col.15, ln.35-48, Legall discloses the upper limit of the frame's bit budgeting is determined to prevent overflow when coding future frames like B frames; col.17, ln.9-21); and compressing said picture using a first number of bits (col.15, ln.36-42, the encoder uses the right number of bits to encode data with the first number as determined to ensure no

overflow takes place), wherein said first number of bits complies with said first limit (col.15, ln.35-48, Legall discloses the upper limit of the frame's bit budgeting is determined to prevent overflow). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Veltman, Acer and Legall, as a whole for permitting constant bit rate, real-time encoding as well as variable rate encoding in an accurate, efficient manner (Legall col.4, ln.26-31).

Regarding claims 4, 11 and 18, Veltman and Acer does not specifically disclose wherein said first limit is an upper limit and said first number of bits is not higher than said upper limit. However, Legall discloses wherein said first limit is an upper limit and said first number of bits is not higher than said upper limit (col.15, ln.35-48, Legall discloses the upper limit of the frame's bit budgeting is determined to prevent overflow). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Veltman, Acer and Legall, as a whole for permitting constant bit rate, real-time encoding as well as variable rate encoding in an accurate, efficient manner (Legall col.4, ln.26-31).

Regarding claims 5, 12 and 19, Veltman and Acer does not specifically disclose wherein said first limit is a lower limit and said first number of bits is not lower than said lower limit. However, Legall discloses wherein said first limit is a lower limit and said first number of bits is not lower than said lower limit (col.14, ln.25-31 and ln.48-55, Legall discloses the lower limit of the frame's bit budgeting is determined to prevent underflow). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Veltman, Acer and Legall, as a whole for permitting constant

bit rate, real-time encoding as well as variable rate encoding in an accurate, efficient manner (Legall col.4, ln.26-31).

Regarding claims 6, 13 and 20, Veltman and Acer does not specifically disclose further comprising the step of: determining a second limit on a number of bits for compressing a current picture; wherein said first limit is an upper limit and said second limit is a lower limit; and wherein said first number of bits is not higher than said upper limit and said first number of bits is not lower than said lower limit. However, Legall discloses further comprising the step of: determining a second limit on a number of bits for compressing a current picture (col.14, ln.25-31 and ln.48-55, Legall discloses the lower limit of the frame's bit budgeting is determined to prevent underflow); wherein said first limit is an upper limit and said second limit is a lower limit (col.15, ln.35-48, Legall discloses the upper limit of the frame's bit budgeting is determined to prevent overflow), and wherein said first number of bits is not higher than said upper limit and said first number of bits is not lower than said lower limit (col.15, ln.35-48, Legall discloses the upper limit of the frame's bit budgeting is determined to prevent overflow, and col.14, ln.25-31 and ln.48-55, Legall discloses the lower limit of the frame's bit budgeting is determined to prevent underflow). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Veltman, Acer and Legall, as a whole for permitting constant bit rate, real-time encoding as well as variable rate encoding in an accurate, efficient manner (Legall col.4, ln.26-31).

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not specifically disclose further comprising the steps of: allocating a first number of bits for compressing said picture and one or more number of bits for compressing one or more future pictures, wherein said future pictures are in said pre-decoder buffer at said pre-decoder buffer removal time of said current picture; determining, based on said numbers of bits in said allocating step, which of said future pictures will be in said pre-decoder buffer at said pre-decoder buffer removal time of said picture; changing said first number of bits for compressing said picture to allocate a final number of bits for compressing said picture if said changing is needed to prevent pre-decoder buffer overflow and underflow; and compressing said picture using said final number of bits, as disclosed in claim 2. Similarly, claims 9 and 16 are patentable for similar reasons.

Terminal Disclaimer

3. The terminal disclaimer filed on 4/9/07 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 to 156 and 173 as shortened by any terminal disclaimer filed prior to the grant of any patent granted on pending second Application Number 10/600,163, filed on June 19, 2003, of any patent on the pending second

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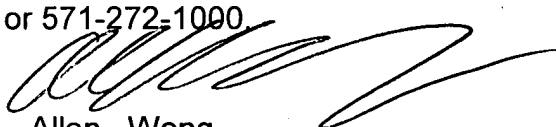
application has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (571) 272-7341. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm Flextime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Miller can be reached on (571) 272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Allen Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2621

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